

5.4412(3)

I

1. In the ...  
2. ...



Rural District Council of Maidstone



*For +*

Annual Report for the Year  
1956

ON

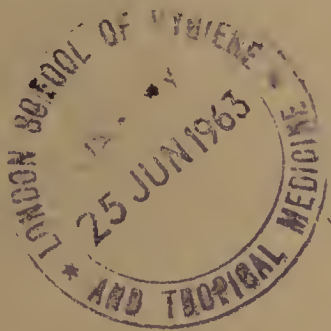
THE HEALTH OF THE  
MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



*Law*



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., T.D.,

M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



Maidstone Rural District Council

---

Public Health Committee

---

Chairman

Colonel Sir George W. Heron, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.,

Members

Mr. H.W. Busbridge  
Mr. R.A. Coates  
Mr. J. Day  
Mr. W. Day  
Mr. F.W. Grout  
Mrs. N.D. Herbert

Major De S.H. Lewis-Barned, M.C.  
Mr. E.L. Manwaring.  
Mr. W. Moore  
Mr. P. Morphett  
Major E.W. Tassell, M.C., T.D.  
Mr. W. Tipples.

---

Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., T.D., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector


K. T. Jolley, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.,  
Public Health Inspectors' Certificate  
Certificate of Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. W. White, M.S.I.A.,  
Public Health Inspectors' Certificate.  
Certificate of Inspector of Meat & Other Foods  
Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

Clerk to Department

Miss H. Wood.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29780202>



Maidstone Rural District

---ooOoo---

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Maidstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the Honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Maidstone Rural District, for the Year ended December 31st, 1956.

The Rural District is still mainly an agricultural area, though there is a tendency towards urbanisation as in many other Rural Districts, when both industry and the urban population incline to spread into what were formerly entirely agricultural districts, but happily we are still very far from the position foretold to me some forty years ago, when the only use for agricultural land which would be left in England would be to separate the towns..

One of the things which many of us were told in our youth is that "You cannot buy good health". This may to an extent be true of personal health but in the Health Department of New York there used to be an inscription, - I cannot say if it still is there, - which read, "Public Health is Purchasable" This is still true and a Local Authority such as a Rural District Council is precisely in the position of a housewife who has to decide which of the attractive, desirable or even necessary items which the department store or market display can offer is most required and is within the resources of her budget. Like the housewife, the Rural District Council is harassed and handicapped by the number and cost of things on which expenditure cannot be avoided and is beyond her control. Other needful provision has to be adjusted according to her means and the problem for both the housewife and the Local Authority is largely one of determining what purchases of Public Health or anything else can be afforded and which are the most desirable and likely to prove most beneficial.

The essential service of the provision of main water supply has now been extended to all parts of the Rural District and during the year, the extension to the Hunton Top area resulted in an increased number of houses being connected to the mains. There has been further progress in the provision of new houses, the demolition of unfit property and the improvement of such unfit houses as could be retained. Efficient and satisfactory drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal are still necessary in several parishes; proposals and schemes for such provision in several parishes have been under consideration for some time, but little progress has been possible and the rivers and streams in the Rural District have suffered pollution as a result of this deficiency.

During 1956, the health of the District has been good, Scarlet fever notifications numbered 10 and this disease was of a mild type. There were a considerable number of cases of measles but nothing approaching the total for 1955. Diphtheria was again absent and the conquest of this disease is one of the successes on which I can look back with pride as an outstanding achievement of the time in which I have been engaged in Public Health.





In 1956, there were no notifications of polio-myelitis, but this disease is still one which has to be eliminated and, though the immunisation procedures now being applied show much promise, a vast amount of research and work is still needed before we can rejoice that polio-myelitis has been overcome as has been small-pox, diphtheria and the enteric fevers. To this end, much research work and extended education of the population are required and I am glad that a local effort to assist the National Fund for Polio Research has been instituted.

Though the death rate per 1,000 population has risen slightly, the birth rate has increased to a like extent and the infantile death rate has dropped from 32.49 to 29.03. Again I am happy to record a maternal death rate of "Nil".

That feature of Kentish rural life, the annual invasion from London of the army of hop-pickers, appears to be likely to come to an end in a few years, with the advent of mechanical picking. The hop-pickers encampments in your area were again given much attention by your Staff and conditions were satisfactory.

I am approaching the end of my service as your Medical Officer of Health and I would again express my thanks to the Council and to your Officers for the co-operation, support and assistance and even forbearance which I have always encountered and which have made my service for the Maidstone Rural District Council an enjoyable and happy experience.

I have the Honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. Jacob Gaffikin,

Medical Officer of Health.



## Section "A".

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area .. .. .	34,487 acres
Estimated resident population, 1956 .. .. .	18,720
Number of inhabited houses, (according to rate books) at end of 1956 .. .. .	6,230
Rateable value .. .. .	£189,513
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£740

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live births	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .. .. .	301	160	141
Illegitimate .. .. .	9	4	5
Total ..	310	164	146

Birth rate, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .	Crude	16.56
	Corrected	17.55

Still births .. .. .	3
Rate per 1,000 births (live & still) .. .. .	9.58

### Deaths

Deaths from all causes.	Total	Male	Female
	360	192	168

Death rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	Crude	19.23
	Corrected.	10.76

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings of Registrar-General's short list) 30, - Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion)	
Rate per 1,000 total births .. .. .	NIL

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.	
All infants, per 1,000 live births ..	29.03
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 live births	29.90
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 live births	NIL

Deaths from measles (all ages) .. .. .	NIL
--	-----

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	59
---------------------------------------	----

Cancer death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.. .. .	3.15
--	------

Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages).. .. .	NIL
--	-----

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).. .. .	1
--	---



## Section "B"

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The general health services are provided by a number of agencies but it would appear to be at least possible that some of the responsibility which had been entrusted to other agencies will return in some degree to the elected members of such bodies as Borough, Urban District and Rural District Councils. Clinical care and hospital treatment are the responsibility of the National Health Service; laboratory investigation and research are entrusted to the laboratory organisation of the N.H.S. and the Medical Research Council. The school medical service, the maternity and child welfare services and other public health activities have of recent years become entirely the responsibility of the County Councils, while the environmental aspects of public health have remained in the care of the local Authorities, such as the Rural District and Urban District Councils, and between all the other agencies, the local Authorities and their Officers form the commencing link and provide the essential liason.

These Authorities have the inestimable advantages of local knowledge, local pride and enthusiasm and of being visible and approachable, which no centralised or remote Authority can possess. There would seem to be some possibility that a return of responsibility for some of the essential services, or at least a degree of delegation of functions to the smaller Local Authorities is possible and I am convinced that a return to Local Government which is essentially local is most desirable.





## Section "C"

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supplies. In previous Reports, I have enumerated the the Water Companies which serve the Rural District. During 1956, the supplies have been adequate of a high standard of bacteriological and chemical purity. The water supplied in the area is hard, but there is not evidence of plumbo-solvent action. The new bore-holes and reservoir at Detling, belonging to the Maidstone Water Company have come into operation and this water is purified by the use of ozone in place of the more customary chlorine. All the parishes in the Maidstone Rural District now have a water supply available from the mains and these supplies are of excellent quality but in the cases where, by reason of contours or on account of the expense involved in taking the mains to isolated properties, it is not practicable to bring the main water supply, some areas are still dependent on wells and springs, the position is not entirely satisfactory, for these springs and wells cannot be relied on to give a completely safe supply. The amount of water required for both domestic and industrial use is steadily increasing and a re-grouping and combination of the water undertakings is becoming a necessity throughout the County.

Scavenging. In the Maidstone Rural District, this service is in the care of the Surveyor and regular collections are made. This service has been difficult to maintain with the shortage of labour and the necessary vehicles, but I must comment on the failings of the community in regard to untidiness and wastefulness. There is far too much litter and rubbish disfiguring our countryside, partly due to the inhabitants and their thoughtless habits, and partly to the laziness and lack of consideration shown by the town dwellers who leave their trail of litter to show where they have passed, and far too much wastefulness, both of material which could be salvaged or burnt by the householder and of money which has to be expended in collecting and disposing of unnecessary accumulations. The citizens could reduce the cost of scavenging and as a result save the rate cost of disposal, by helping to reduce the quantity of rubbish which has to be collected.

Drainage and Sewerage. During the year extensions and improvements of disposal works were made, and further re-construction and improvements of existing works are contemplated, but the inception of the combined scheme for Teston, Watlingbury and Nettlestead in conjunction with the Malling Rural District Council is still delayed.

This provision is an urgent necessity and the fact that the river Medway is being polluted cannot be viewed with any complacency.

Most of the houses in the Rural District are equipped with water closets, discharging into cess-pits, or with pail closets, the contents of the pail closets are usually disposed of by the occupiers and many gardens are small and are becoming choked with this night-soil. The emptying of cess-pits and the disposal of the contents are controlled by the Surveyor: the expense is heavy and the cost increases every year, but the point which I would stress is that the methods of disposing of sewage sludge or untreated sewage in this



country, - generally by dumping it or by turning it into the sea, - are grossly wasteful. The population of the country and of the whole world is rising and this population needs to be fed: we cannot afford to be wasteful of this nitrogenous material, which should be fertilising the waste places of the earth.

Rivers and Streams. Pollution of the rivers and streams in the area certainly exists and this fouling of our rivers is a reproach to the community and a potential danger to the health of the citizens.

Existing sewage disposal works are overloaded and additional provision is necessary but I urge that the policy should be to have such works as large as needful and as few in number as can be arranged, even if joint action by two or more Authorities is involved rather than that there should be multiplication of small works, difficult to maintain and supervise, wasteful to establish and no addition to the beauty of the landscape. Local Authorities, in regard to sewage disposal works have an unfortunate resemblance to the Snark in its "fondness for bathing machines

"Which it constantly scatters about  
Believing they add to the beauty of scenes,-  
A sentiment open to doubt"

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Your Chief Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of the work of his Department during 1956. Slum Clearance activities have increased the number of housing inspections required, while the new sewer at Loose and the extension of the water mains to the Hunton Top area have relieved to some degree the pressure of work in the inspection of drainage and water supply. One of the pressing parts of the Public Health Inspectors' work is in connection with Food Hygiene and considerable additional work will be involved in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956 and in particular with the supervision of cafes, restaurants and eating places.





## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

### HOUSING

Number of houses surveyed .. .. .	436
Number of revisits to houses .. .. .	693
Number of drains inspected.. .. .	346
Number of revisits to drains .. .. .	356
Visits re. Overcrowding .. .. .	13
Number of visits made under the Housing Acts ..	193

### FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspections ..	340
Number of visits re. Water Supplies .. .. .	46
Number of visits re. Milk and Dairies .. .. .	50
Number of visits re. Food and Drugs Act .. .. .	361

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of visits re. Infectious Disease .. .. .	13
---	----

### GENERAL

Accummulations .. .. .	51
Keeping of Animals .. .. .	7
House Vans and Camping Sites .. .. .	292
Hop-pickers' Camps .. .. .	225
Factories Act .. .. .	79
Shops Act .. .. .	283
Rodent Control .. .. .	205
Miscellaneous .. .. .	203

### Comparison of Summary Figures with 1955

There has been an increase in the Housing inspections of 378, mainly due to the commencement of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, 1955/59

A decrease of 187 inspections under Drainage was caused by a considerable number of inspections in 1955 due to the connection of premises to the new sewer at Loose.

Inspections under Housing Acts have decreased by 575 visits, this decrease is caused by the fact that Mr. Sedgwick when Chief Sanitary Inspector made numerous visits under this group in 1955. These visits were due to the revision of the Category III houses under the





Rural Housing Survey. Although this Survey is no longer in use, the records are invaluable to the Public Health Department as a guide in the formation of any subsequent Slum Clearance Programme.

Water Supply inspections have decreased by 108 because the mains supply of water to Hunton was incorporated in 1955 which warranted a considerable number of inspections in this vicinity.

An increase of 144 inspections under the Food and Drugs Act was due to the new Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956.

House Vans and sites warranted a further 211 inspections. These were the result of considerable difficulty with regard to the Twyford Boat Yard Camping Site, and other caravans positioned on sites which are not licenced by the Council. Before any legal action can be taken by this Council, the caravans must be viewed daily to ascertain contravention of the Public Health Act, 1936 Sec. 264.

Hop Pickers' Camps inspections showed a decrease of 73 over 1955. This is because the number of pickers during 1956 were far less than in previous years.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

### NOTICES

Informal notices served .. .. .	68
Informal notices completed during 1956 .. ..	47

### HOUSING DEFECTS DEALT WITH BY INFORMAL NOTICES

Walls and Ceilings repaired .. .. .	30
Walls repointed .. .. .	3
Dampness remedied .. .. .	11
External rendering .. .. .	3
Replace broken sashcords .. .. .	1
Repair defective windows or doors .. .. .	7
Fillets to chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	1
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	1
General repairs to roof .. .. .	4
Defective treads or risers to staircase .. ..	1
Provision of permanent ventilation .. .. .	3
Provision of piped water .. .. .	7
Fire Precaution Certificate .. .. .	1
Cooking facilities repaired .. .. .	2
Smoke nuisance abated.. .. .	4
Provision of sinks .. .. .	4
Provision of new Partitions .. .. .	2
Provision of Boiler/Copper.. .. .	1
Decoration .. .. .	2
Removal of Dangerous Structure .. .. .	1
Repair or replacement of Floors.. .. .	2
Window area increased.. .. .	1

### DRAINAGE

Overflowing cesspools reported .. .. .	15
Replacement of guttering .. .. .	1
Repairs to rainwater downpipes .. .. .	1
Insanitary condition of closets.. .. .	1



#### DRAINAGE (Cont.)

Repairs to broken wastepipes	..	..	..	..	4
Flushing cistern to w.c.	..	..	..	..	4
Soakaways repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Provision of sinks	..	..	..	..	1
Provision of closets	..	..	..	..	6
Provision of new waste-pipes or gulleys	..	..			2

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by inspector	..	..	..	..	13
Reports to M.O.H. on cases of infectious disease					
Scarlet Fever..	..	..	..	..	5

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licenced slaughterhouses	..	..	..	6
Number of premises cleansed during the year	..			6





## FACTORIES AND WORK PLACES

The following figures show the number of inspections made of Factories, Workshops, and other premises of employment, excluding shops. It shows where defects were found, and the action necessary to abate these defects.

Premises	No.	Inspections	Notices served.	Notices complied with	Statutory Notices
Factories with mechanical power	68	60	10	8	-
Factories without mechanical power	5	17	2	2	-
Other premises	5	2	1	1	-
Totals	78	79	13	11	-

During 1956, the number of factory premises within this District have apparently decreased by 19. In this period the factory register was completely renewed in loose-leaf form, instead of a bound ledger. During the transfer of the figures from the old ledger this apparent decrease was caused by excluding the factories which were no longer in operation. The factories register is now completely up-to-date.

No serious defects were found in factories during this year, the standard of the large premises is very high, but it has been noticed that some of the smaller factories, especially those without mechanical power, will require considerable attention in the future.

Close co-operation has been experienced with the Factories Inspector, especially when dealing with the issue of Fire Precaution Certificates for Means of Escape in Case of Fire.



## Section "D"

### HOUSING

The following information regarding housing in the Rural District is set out in the form asked for by the Ministry of Health:-

I	1(a)	Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	436
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	1129
	2(a)	Number of dwelling-houses, (included under sub-section 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 .. .. .	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	-
	3(a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	39
	4(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	32
II		Remedy of defects during the year, without the service of formal notice.	
	1(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	47
III		Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	-
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices	
		a. By owners .. .. .	-
		b. By Local Authority in default of owners	-
	B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	1.	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
		a. By Owners .. .. .	-
		b. By Local Authority in default of owners	-
	C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made .. .. .	14



2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	10
---	----

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	-
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	-

IV Housing Act, 1936. Part 4 Overcrowding.

A. 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	-
2. Number of families dwelling therein.. ..	-
3. Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..	-
B. 1. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. .. .	13
C. 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. .. .	8
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	41
D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	NIL





## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of Applications approved in 1956	..	..	10
Number of Applications not approved	..	..	15
Number of houses involved in approved Applications			23
Amount of Grants Approved	..	..	..£5890
Number of improvements completed in 1956	..	..	14

The number of Grants approved are 31 less than in 1955. This is mainly due to the alteration of the Council's policy with regard to making these grants. Most of the premises were of the farm workers type. Although directly they do not affect the Council's Housing Programme, indirectly, by improving the type of premises occupied by farm workers, the occupiers have been more satisfied with their accommodation, and must have reduced the number of applications for Council Houses.

With the commencement of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, the more properties are improved within the District, the less number of premises need be considered by your Public Health Department for additions to any future programmes.



## CAMPING SITES AND CARAVANS

<u>Site</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Maximum No. of caravans.</u>
Enterprise Camping Site, Barming.	Mr. Payne	25
Camping Site, East Farleigh.	Mr. Chambers.	20
The Retreat Camping Site, Nettlestead.	Mrs. Lamb	25

### Caravan Sites for seasonal use only

Medway Wharf Camping Site, Nettlestead.	Mr. Ashe	10
Twyford Boat Yard Camping Site, Yalding.	Mr. Wickham.	16

### Summary of Data

Number of inspections .. .. .	292
Number of licenced sites .. .. .	5
Applications for licence .. .. .	5
Applications for licence refused.. .. .	3

There has been a considerable increase in inspections of caravan sites and caravans during 1956. This was caused by a considerable influx of unlicenced caravans within the District. In accordance with the Public Health Act, Sec. 264 before any Legal Action can be taken against owners of unlicenced caravans, inspections must be made for 42 consecutive days. During the year three caravans were licenced as opposed to licencing of the site. This method of licencing caravans simplifies the legal aspect, because a caravan licence can be for a given period, whereas site licences cannot be so determined.

Caravan sites for seasonal use only, indicates two camps.

No serious trouble was found during the year, although quite a number of caravans were moved out of the District because their applications for site licence etc. were refused. It is estimated that at least fifty caravans were still situated permanently within this District without licence of the van or the site.



### HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Total Number of Hop Pickers' Camps in use..	..	..	..	82
Number of Huts in use (estimated)	..	..	..	4,000
Estimated Number of Pickers	..	..	..	16,000
Inspections..	..	..	..	225

Hop picking during 1956 extended from the last week in August to the second week in September. During this period, 225 inspections were carried out, each camp being inspected both before and during occupation. It was not found necessary to take any statutory action, although several informal notices were served on the owners of camps.

On the whole, the camps were in a fair condition, although several are rapidly deteriorating because the camps are no longer fully occupied. Of the 102 camps within the District, only 82 were used, and most of these were not filled to capacity. In the Byelaws it states that the owner should inform the Local Authority fourteen days before commencement of picking, that his hop pickers' camp will be in use. Only a few notifications were received, which means that quite a number of inspections were made of camps which were not used during the season. I do feel that owners of hop pickers' camps should be circularised with further copies of the Byelaws to prevent such useless inspections being made in the future.





Section "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

No. of Food Premises in the District

Cafes and Restaurants..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Food Shops (excluding Butchers) ..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Butchers' Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Licenced Premises	..	..	..	..	..	67
Total						<u>193</u>

Number of Visits and Inspections

Cafes and Restaurants ..	..	..	..	..	31
Food Shops (excluding Butchers) ..	..	..	..	..	172
Butchers Shops ..	..	..	..	..	31
Licenced Premises ..	..	..	..	..	30
Total					<u>264</u>

The various types of food premises within the District appear to have increased considerably from a total of 170 in 1955 to 193 in 1956. This does not indicate that the extra 23 premises of this type have been opened within the District. During 1956 a Register of Shops was started by the Public Health Department, and the total figures taken from this Register are more accurate than the figures relied on when compiling the 1955 report.

As can be seen from the number of inspections, food premises were given more attention this year, because of the new Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and subsequent Food Hygiene Regulations. The Law is far more severe on defaulters under the new Act, and gives the Local Authority wider powers for controlling premises of this type.

No serious cases of contravention were found during these inspections, although a number of shopkeepers required a little guidance as to the standards which should be maintained. I can report that the standard of the small village shop is still very high compared with those of the town.



## MILK SUPPLIES

### Examination of Milk Samples (Bacteriological)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of Samples examined</u>	<u>No. found un- satisfactory</u>
Sterilised	11	none
Tuberculin Tested	4	none
Pasteurised	4	none
Undesignated	-	-
	20	none

### Dairies and Milk Shops

Details of registration and licences are given below:-

Dairies registered .. .. .	15
Retailers (excluding dairies) .. ..	20
	<u>35</u>

### Dealers Licences

Sterilised Milk .. .. .	28
Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	11
Tuberculin Tested Milk.. .. .	11
	<u>50</u>

### Supplementary Licences

Sterilised Milk .. .. .	5
Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk.. .. .	4
	<u>14</u>

In 1956 the Maidstone Rural District was included within a specified area where designated milks only may be sold.

These areas are defined by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and considerable information was passed to the officers concerned by your Public Health Department.

There has been no difficulty with regard to the incorporation of this specific restriction, as ninety per cent of the milk already sold in your district was



designated in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations. It is now an offence to sell milk within this area which is not designated either, Sterilised, Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested.

Seven less samples were taken for Bacteriological purposes during 1956, but of the twenty samples taken no unsatisfactory milk was found.

Four Dairies withdrew their registration during the year, but three additional retailers were included. The retailers include shops which sell milk over the counter, but do not deliver direct to the door.

Owing to the withdrawal of four dairies from the register, the number of licences for pasteurised and tuberculin tested milks have decreased.

During the year it was found that two dairies in the Tonbridge Rural District also supplied milk within this district, and therefore additional supplementary licences were issued for the milk sold.





## MEAT INSPECTION

Approximately the same number of carcasses were examined under Meat Inspection, and it has been found that the meat was slightly more satisfactory than in 1955. The total number of carcasses condemned were .15 per cent of the carcasses examined. The carcasses partially condemned 3.5 per cent. These figures are far below the national figures.

It has been possible to examine all the carcasses passing through the slaughterhouses within the Maidstone Rural District, and I do feel that your inspectors should be congratulated on the considerable amount of work entailed which is only a fraction of their duties.

The licence for one of the slaughterhouses was withdrawn in 1956, leaving five privately owned slaughterhouses in the Maidstone Rural District.

During the year application was made and approval given for two additional Deadweight Certification Centres, bringing the total number of centres to three. One in Staplehurst and two in Marden.

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Carcases</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Ballard .. .. .	558	37%
Boorman (Staplehurst) ..	485	31.5%
Boorman (Marden) .. ..	361	23.7%
Standen .. .. .	71	4.6%
Haggett .. .. .	48	3.2%
	<u>1,523</u>	<u>100%</u>

### Total Carcasses Examined

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. Examined	530	651	28	39	275	1,523
No. Passed	502	629	28	18	252	1,429
Completely condemned	4	7	-	-	-	11
Partially condemned	24	15	-	21	23	83



Tuberculosis

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. Examined	530	651	28	39	275	1,523
Completely condemned	1	-	-	-	-	1
Partially condemned	3	-	-	10	5	18

Other Diseases

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. Examined	530	651	28	39	275	1,523
Completely condemned	3	7	-	-	-	10
Partially condemned	21	15	-	11	18	65

Pigs for Deadweight Certification

Boorman (Staplehurst) ..	..	113
Boorman (Marden) ..	..	75
Ballard (Marden) ..	..	6
Total..	..	194



SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN DETAIL

<u>Boorman - Staplehurst</u>	Pigs	Sheep	Cows	Calves	Bovine
Number examined	226	147	-	8	104
Completely condemned	2	4	-	-	-
Partially condemned	12	-	-	-	10
<u>Boorman - Marden</u>	Pigs	Sheep	Cows	Calves	Bovine
Number examined	147	141	-	3	70
Completely condemned	2	3	-	-	-
Partially condemned	2	9	-	-	7
<u>Ballard - Marden</u>	Pigs	Sheep	Cows	Calves	Bovine
Number examined	149	302	-	17	90
Completely condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Partially condemned	4	6	-	-	4
<u>Standen - Coxheath</u>	Pigs	Sheep	Cows	Calves	Bovine
Number examined	4	18	39	-	10
Completely condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Partially condemned	-	-	21	-	2
<u>Haggett - Hunton</u>	Pigs	Sheep	Cows	Calves	Bovine
Number examined	4	43	-	-	1
Completely condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Partially condemned	-	-	-	-	-





# REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

<u>Reason</u>			<u>completely condemned.</u>	<u>partially condemned</u>
Tuberculosis	..	..	1	18
Necrosis	..	..	-	4
Abscesses	..	..	-	11
Liver fluke..	..	..	-	12
Fatty infiltration	..		-	6
Lack of proper bleeding			4	-
External bruises..	..		-	2
Pleurisy	..	..	-	2
Moribund carcass..	..		5	-
Containing food	..	..	-	1
Ascaris lumbricoides	..		-	1
Fevered condition	..		-	1
Arthritis	..	..	-	1
Nephritis	..	..	-	2
Pneumonia	..	..	1	2
Milk spots	..	..	-	1
Pericarditis	..	..	-	2
Fatty Degeneration	..		-	1
Parasites	..	..	-	5
Cirrhosis	..	..	-	2
Melanosis	..	..	-	1
Angioma	..	..	-	1
Traumatic hepatitis	..		-	1
Cystercus bovis	..	..	-	5
Actinobacillosis	..	..	-	1



## SHOPS ACTS

283 inspections were made during this year, an increase of fifty-seven on the inspections for 1955. Most of this increase was due to the concentration on the food shops within the District. No statutory notices were required for contraventions of the Shops Act, 1950. It was not found possible to make many inspections with regard to the Closing hours of shops within this District, owing to the pressure of other work. It is known that quite a number of shops not only sell outside the limited number of hours, but also retail articles which should not be sold on Sundays and during house of normal closing. It is hoped that further inspections can be made to restrict such contraventions of the Act, but this will mean your inspectors will have to work after office hours and during the weekend.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938/50

### Formal Samples Taken by Food and Drugs Authority

This authority in this District is the County Council, and the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council has provided us with a list of the samples taken in the district during the year.



# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Maidstone Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Beecham's Powders .. .. .	1
Blancmange Powder .. .. .	1
Bread .. .. .	1
Butter.. .. .	1
Butter Bats (Sweets) .. .. .	1
Buttered fruits (Sweets) .. .. .	1
Cake & Pudding Mix .. .. .	1
Cascara Sagrada Tablets .. .. .	1
Chutney Sauce .. .. .	1
Clotted Cream .. .. .	1
Coffee & Chicory Mixture .. .. .	1
Currants .. .. .	1
Drinking Chocolate .. .. .	1
Flour .. .. .	1
Honey .. .. .	1
Jam, Raspberry .. .. .	1
Jelly, Orange .. .. .	1
Laxative Tablets.. .. .	1
Milk .. .. .	38
Mixed Vegetables (canned) .. .. .	1
Mustard .. .. .	2
Pickles .. .. .	1
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce .. .. .	3
Pineapple Preserve .. .. .	1
Sultanas .. .. .	1
Tea .. .. .	1
Vanilla Essence .. .. .	1
Veganin Tablets .. .. .	1
Vick Medicated Lozenges .. .. .	1
Vitaminised Iron Jelloids .. .. .	1
Whisky.. .. .	2
White Pepper .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
	73
	<hr/>

### Summary

Milks .. .. .	38
Drugs .. .. .	6
Spirits .. .. .	2
Other Samples .. .. .	27
	<hr/>
	73
	<hr/>

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Bread	Inferior. Contained a moth or butterfly.	Additional pre-cautions to be taken. Caution issued.





ICE CREAM

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test Group</u>	<u>Pathogenic organ- isms cultivated</u>
16	I	-
6	II	--
-	III	-
-	IV	--

Total of 22 Samples.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream have risen from 57 to 60. Only one producer still operates within the Maidstone Rural District, and then only during the summer months. His premises have been inspected several times during the year, and found to be satisfactory.

On one occasion a complaint was received of tainted ice cream from this source, and on investigation it was found that some of the oil used in production was rancid the remainder of this stock was voluntarily surrendered by the producer and disposed of accordingly.

Twenty-two samples were taken of ice cream for bacteriological examination, and proved satisfactory.



## RODENT CONTROL

### Summary of Inspections and Surveys made by the Rodent Operator.

Number of Visits made for all purposes	..	2,372
Number of premises surveyed (including farms)		112
Number of Treatments made	.. .. .	838
Estimated Number of rats destroyed	.. ..	4,118 <sup>±</sup>
Estimated Number of mice destroyed	.. ..	1,877

---

On comparison with the 1955 figures, it indicates that the Rodent Operator made 482 extra visits during 1956, but surveyed 47 less premises. The number of premises treated were approximately the same. The estimated figure for rats and mice killed are based on the number of baits laid, amount of baits taken, approximately how much bait is taken and the number of bodies found. Although this estimated figure is hypothetical, and cannot be reliable, it does give some indication of the rat population of the District.

Warfarin 5 was once again used one hundred per cent and has been found perfectly satisfactory when mixed with maize meal instead of oat-meal. The oat-meal is liable to mould within a few days of laying the baits, and it has been found that maize meal is not so liable to so affect the baits.

The annual contracts during the year for farms and businesses were 27, two of the earlier contracts being cancelled. No complaint had been received regarding these contracts.

The annual testing of sewers was completed without any evidence of rat infestation.

In addition to the inspections by the Rodent Operator, the Public Health Inspectors, in the course of their duties made 205 inspections in the year in connection with rodent infestation and control.





## FOOD POISONING

There was but one isolated case of food poisoning notified during the year. Food poisoning is obviously a preventable happening and I am glad to say that the standard of cleanliness and care in places where food is prepared and sold is improving. The Food Hygiene Regulations will be of great value in securing that such standards are universally applied and the District Council has a duty to see that they are universally applied. The other frequent source of contamination of food is in the homes and kitchens and there is much educational work required to emphasize the need for as great care in the kitchen and larder as in the factory or shop.

## Section "F"

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

The incidence of infectious disease in the Maidstone Rural District in 1956 was, on the whole, light and less than in 1955. Scarlet Fever notifications numbered 10, and again I have to report that the disease was of a mild type. In fact, scarlet fever appears to have changed its character in the last quarter of a century and is now one of the less troublesome infections. Measles notifications numbered 90, - just one seventh of the number recorded last year, which bears out what I mentioned in last year's report, that measles incidence rises in cycles, when the proportion of susceptible children in the community rises. Whooping cough also showed a marked drop, 25 notifications as against 135 last year. Fourteen cases of pneumonia were reported but I do not imagine that this figure represents the total number of cases occurring in the district.

Again it is a satisfaction to record that there were no cases of diphtheria during 1956 and this practically complete elimination of diphtheria from the country in 25 years is a proof of the triumphant success of immunisation. It must now be stressed that the safety that has been secured can only be maintained by continued vigilance and the securing of a high percentage of protected persons in the community. Complacency and neglect of the need for immunisation could easily result in the re-appearance of this dread infection.

There were no cases of Polio-myelitis notified during the year 1956, but the appearance of this infection is an ever-present risk. While severe outbreaks are seasonal in character, recent years have shown that cases occur at all periods of the year. Polio-myelitis is an infection against which it should be possible to secure protection; much work has been done and considerable progress made in the investigation of the disease, but a vast amount of research still remains to be undertaken and for such research work, funds are necessary. I am glad that the Maidstone and District Committee to support the National Fund for Polio Research has been





rewarded with some success and I am hopeful that, given adequate resources and funds, from both official and voluntary sources, Polio will be conquered as has been Diphtheria.

In the following Tables, I give the numbers of cases of notifiable disease which have been recorded in 1956. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with figures showing the number of children vaccinated against small-pox during the year, and also the numbers immunised against Diphtheria, classified according to the year of birth. There is also a Table showing the number of children under the age of fifteen years on December 31st., 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria at any time before that date. These tables are in themselves interesting but the point which must not be allowed to get obscured in a fog of figures and age-groups is that for another year, we have the incidence figure for Diphtheria at "Nil". This position has been won and must be held. To do this it is essential that there should be no neglect of the duty of ensuring that immunisation levels are maintained and protection for all children secured.

I attach the Table giving details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which appears in a separate Table later in this report, reported in the Maidstone Rural District during 1956.

Disease	Total No. of cases notified	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	nil
Whooping cough	25	nil
Measles	90	nil
Pneumonia	19	7
Dysentery	nil	nil
Erysipelas	2	nil
Puerperal pyrexia	3	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	nil	nil
Food Poisoning	1	nil
Chicken-pox	nil	nil
Totals -	150	7



Immunisation against Diphtheria and  
Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Maidstone Rural District who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1956:-

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations	33	157	18	5	3	3	2	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	227
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	5	101	49	17	21	60	25	9	1	4	1	293

(B) VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Vaccination	149	72	2	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	241
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	25

Maidstone Rural District

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1956

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952 - 1956	46	79	125	95	117	208	200	171	164	238	221	208	194	183	33	2282
1951 or earlier.	77	104	109	77	66	11	15	108	106	7	-	-	-	-	-	680





### MALIGNANT DISEASE

The number of deaths from Cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past three years is as under:-

1954	..	..	..	..	..	53
1955	..	..	..	..	..	65
1956	..	..	..	..	..	59

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year.. .. Nil

(ii) Number of cases in which:-

(a)	Vision lost..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(b)	Vision impaired	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c)	Treatment continuing at the end of the year	..	..	..	..	..	-

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases and deaths have been notified during the year:-

<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3	3	nil	nil	3	2	nil	nil
<u>Total</u> - 6				<u>Total</u> - 5			

The Chest Clinic which serves the area for which I am Medical Officer of Health is at Foster Street, Maidstone. This Clinic is equipped for the investigation of chest conditions, with facilities for radiographic examinations and full laboratory aid is also available. The Chest Physician in charge is Dr. D. L. Pugh and close co-operation between the Chest Clinic and the Health Departments of the four authorities has continued during the year.

Dr. Pugh has kindly furnished me with details of the number of contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis which were examined during the year and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. This investigation of contacts of known cases is one of the most valuable





procedures in the detection of cases which might otherwise be missed and provides vital information on the origin and spread of infection. The figures quoted below relate to the investigations made in the area served by the Chest Clinic, which coincides with the area of the four Authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D. Hollingbourn R.D. and Malling R.D.

(a) Number of contacts seen during 1956 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis .. .. . 206

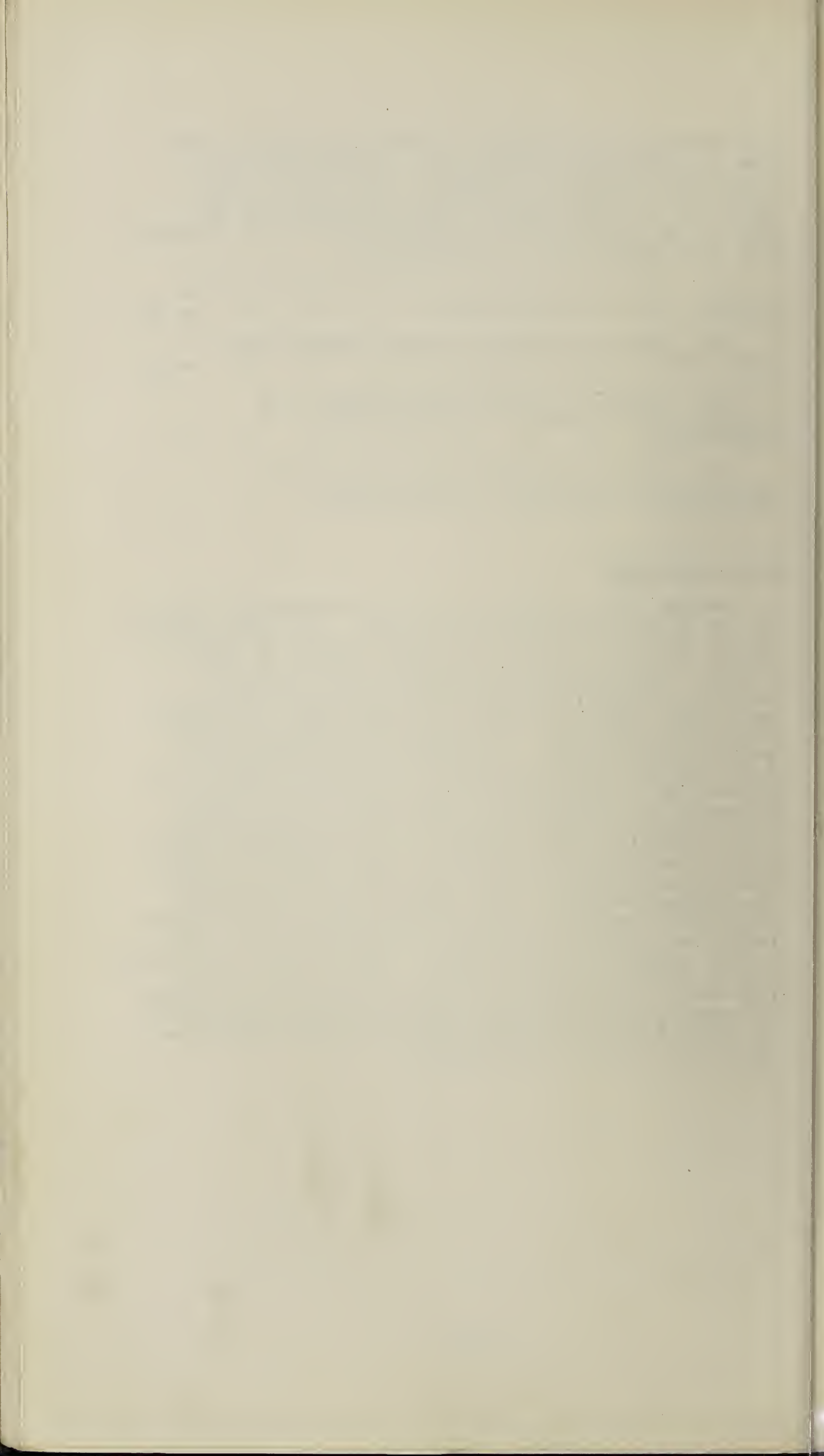
(b) Number of contacts examined during 1956, of cases notified prior to 1956 .. .. . 299

(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. . 1

(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. . 4

### Mass Radiography

During 1956, a survey by the Mass Radiography Units 7B and 7F was carried out in the area. The last previous survey was made in 1953 and on this occasion six public centres were established, as against one in the 1953 survey. Surveys were also carried out at various industrial establishments, and the experiment of having additional centres at which the public could attend has been fully justified. The numbers attending from the general public showed an increase of 3,744 males and 3,152 females over the numbers in the 1953 survey: the numbers for the industrial surveys showed a decrease of 337 males and 1,560 females, the actual increase over 1953 being thus 5,099. This is an encouraging result and justifies the establishment of the additional public centres and the numbers found to have attended the Mass Radiography Service for the first time also indicated the interest which has been aroused among the general public, the percentage being 39.5% as regards the general public and 40.02 as regards the industrial survey, the overall percentage being 39.6%. Attached is a Table showing the numbers examined at the public centres, in the industrial surveys made at various works and the surveys at schools, with the numbers and percentages X-rayed for the first time and also the numbers and percentages recalled for further investigation.



Centres	Nos. M.	Examined F.	Total	No. x-rayed for 1st. time.	% No. x-rayed for 1st time to No. examined.	% total number x-rayed for 1st time to total No. examined.	No. of per- sons recalled for 2nd film	% No. of per- sons recalled for 2nd time to numbers examined.	% of number of persons recalled for 2nd time to total Nos. examined.
<u>A. GENERAL PUBLIC</u>									
1. Drill Hall, Union Street.	3747	4657	8404	3237	38.5		491	5.8	
2. Drill Hall Tovil.	161	41	202	40	19.8		-	-	
3. Drill Hall Ditton.	364	434	798	401	50.2		20	2.5	
4. Drill Hall Astley House	840	325	1165	248	21.2		-	-	
5. Shepway	404	613	1017	513	50.4		11	1.0	
6. Fant Leine Hospital.	342	583	925	505	54.5		71	7.6	
<u>TOTALS</u>	5858 (2114)	6653 (3501)	12511 (5615)	4944					
<u>B. Industrial &amp; Other Survey.</u>									
	4280 (4617)	2051 (3511)	6331 (8128)	2534	40.02		138	2.1	
<u>TOTALS</u>			18842	7478		39.6	731		3.8
<u>C. Schools</u>			5118	-	-	-	52	1.01	-

Figures in brackets indicate numbers attending during previous survey in 1953





1 9 5 6

Causes of Deaths

	M.	F.
All causes .. .. .	192	168
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	3	2
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	-	-
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	-	-
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-
Whooping cough .. .. .	-	-
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	-
Measles .. .. .	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	7	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.. .. .	-	12
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.. .. .	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm .. .. .	14	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.. .. .	-	1
Diabetes .. .. .	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	26	29
Coronary disease, agina .. .. .	20	8
Hypertension with heart disease.. .. .	2	3
Other heart disease .. .. .	21	25
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	7	15
Influenza .. .. .	-	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	4
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	4
Other disease of respiratory system .. .. .	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.. .. .	-	-
Congenital malformations .. .. .	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined disease .. .. .	52	34
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	4	-
All other accidents .. .. .	6	2
Suicide .. .. .	2	1
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	-	-





Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1956

Rate per 1,000 live births		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population											Rate per 1,000 live births	
		Live births	Still birth	All causes	Typhoid & para ty- phoid fever	Tuber- culosis	Whooping cough	Diph- theria	Influenza	Polio- myelitis (including polioence- phelitis)	Smallpox	Total Deaths under one year.	Pneumonia	
England & Wales	15.6	23.0	11.7	-	0.12	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	23.8	0.52	
160 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London.	15.6	23.0	11.6	-	0.14	-	-	-	0.04	-	-	24.0	0.57	37
160 smaller towns (resi- dent population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 census.)	15.6	22.7	11.6	-	0.11	-	-	-	0.05	-	-	24.1	0.45	
London Adminis- trative County	15.9	20.2	11.7	-	0.14	-	-	-	0.04	-	-	21.4	0.67	
Maidstone Rural District.	17.45	9.58	10.76	-	0.26	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	29.03	0.37	



Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Rates per 1,000 total of Births (live &amp; still)</u>
Maternal Causes	402	0.56

Maidstone Rural District

<u>Puerperal Infections</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
nil	nil	nil per 1,000 total births.



### GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population, 1956 .. ..	18,720
Area (acres) .. .. .	34,487
Density (persons per acre) .. ..	.543
Annual Birth-rate per 1,000 population	
Crude .. ..	16.56
Corrected .. ..	17.55
Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population	
Crude .. ..	19.23
Corrected .. ..	10.76
Births.. .. Male - 164 Female - 146 Total	310
Deaths.. .. Male - 192 Female - 168 Total	360
Excess of deaths over births .. ..	50
Tuberculosis death-rate	
Pulmonary.. ..	.267
Non-pulmonary .. ..	nil
Cancer death-rate per 1,000 population ..	3.15







